imprisonment not exceeding two months or to both, fine and imprisonment. 312 466

The Directorate-General of Irrigation may undertake the clearance of irrigation canals by machinery, and the persons benefiting from such work shall refund the costs so incurred. (Last para. of Art. 14, added by Amending Law of 1945).

3) Offences and Penalties under the Irrigation and Embankments Law 312 681

Articles 15 to 18 deal with offences and penalties, in addition to those already mentioned.

Article 15 prescribes the death penalty for whomsoever wilfully and maliciously damages or alters any irrigation work thereby causing injury to life or to property and with penal servitude for life, or a term not exceeding 15 years, if it does not.

Article 16 lists a series of offences punishable by imprisonment not exceeding two months or a fine not exceeding 500 rupees of to both imprisonment and fine. Among the offences stipulated herein are:

Damage, alteration and obstruction to any irrigation work, interference with the supply of water; fouling of water; destruction, tampering with, or alteration of land, level marks or water gauges; damages caused to canal or flood enbankments by grazing cattle; refusal or neglect to supply labor; neglect to prevent waste of water; obstruction to Government official from executing their duties; etc. Addition to or cancellation or alteration to the above list may be made by Regulation (Article 20).

Article 17 prescribes a fine not exceeding 30 rupees for persons failing to comply with a notice to execute repairs, within the time specified in such notice.

4) Miscellaneous Provisions

In any proceedings on offences mentioned in Articles 12 and 16 thereof, before a Magistrate, a report signed by an assistant engineer or by any senior official in the Irrigation Department may be accepted as evidence in court. The recovery of sums due 312 681 694

312 to the irrigation department, and the procedure to be followed
681 for their recovery though covered by Article 19 is now done
694 through the Mutassarrifs concerned in accordance with the Law for the Collection of Debts Due to the Government No. 43 of 23 April 1931 as amended by subsequent Laws.

5) Rice Cultivation

243 The Law for Rice Cultivation No. 23 of 31 March 1932, as
656 subsequently amended by Law 53 of 15 May 1940, prohibits or restricts in areas defined by Regulation issued from time to time, the cultivation of rice for health reasons, economy in the use of water or soil conservation (Article 1).

Rice cultivation could only be conducted under special license (Article 4), and areas in which rice cultivation is restricted shall be fixed by Regulation (Article 2).

Regulation No. 34 of 28 August 1944, defines the regions in which rice cultivation is prohibited and also fixes areas in mashares for regions where rice could be cultivated.

The Minister of Agriculture shall decide the manner in which areas for rice cultivation alloted to each Liwa are to be distributed, and the mutassarrif concerned shall issue a notice inviting those interested to apply for the necessary permits.

Requests must be submitted to the qusaimaqam of the qadha in which the lands are situated, and the mutassarrif, to whom the requests are transferred shall issue the permits, with the requirements of the Irrigation Department. The minimum distance between rice fields and inhabited localities shall be three kilometres. The permits are non-transferable and are strictly limited to the persons and to the plot of land and irrigation works stated on them. The permit holder agrees to the rotation of water supplies determined by the Irrigation Department, and he accepts responsibility for all shortage of irrigation supply with consequent damage to crops.

6) Offences and Penalties under the Law for Rice Cultivation

243 It is forbidden for any person to exceed the area for rice
681 cultivation fixed in the permits, or to cultivate without permit in prohibited and restricted areas. Contravenors shall be fined